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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/724,759	12/02/2003	Jens-Uwe Gleu	202-114	1803
7590	06/18/2004		EXAMINER	
Walter Ottesen Patent Attorney P.O. Box 4026 Gaithersburg, MD 20885-4026			BUTLER, DOUGLAS C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3683	

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

ST

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/724,759	GLEU, JENS-UWE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Douglas C. Butler	3683	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 4 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-17 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-17 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. An action on the merits of claims 1-3, 5-17 readable on elected Species B (Fig. 2) is included in this office action.
2. Claim 4 is withdrawn from consideration under 37CFR 1.142(b).
3. All submitted prior art has been considered.
4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 3, 5, 11,-13, 16, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Australian reference No. 227, 246 to Polhemus.

Fig. 2 of Polhemus discloses air spring cover 10' (see Fig. 1 for full showing of cover of another embodiment) with upper part 10' and lower part 10 a' of the spring cover wherein the upper and lower parts joined at an interface in a pressure tight manner. Note rolling-lobe flexible member 24' attached to the spring cover.

7. Claims 2, 9-10, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Polhemus in view of Moulton et al (3815885) or Gregoire (3066929) or submitted FR1362125 to Bosch.

p3 See Fig. 2 of Moulton et al with clamp 15. See clamp 13 (Fig. 6) of Gregoire.

See clamp situated with upper and lower shells 1, 3 in the single figure of the submitted FR1362125 reference to Bosch.

Polhemus lacks a clamp in the context of the invention but it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the flanged seam arrangement of Polhemus to include a clamp similar to that of any one of the secondary references to Moulton et al, Gregoire or Bosch in order to better seal the interface.

8. Claims 6, 7, 8, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Polhemus.

Re the shape of the seam, materials of which the shells are made and particular method of forming the seam, it would have been obvious to modify Polhemus in the manner claimed since the features would have been obvious variations of Polhemus that one having ordinary skill in the art through routine skill would have used to adapt the air spring to different desires of the air spring user.

9. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 11, 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hofmann (1077472).

Note interface at vicinity 12 with upper (13) and lower (1) shell parts of an air spring.

Hofmann should show applicant the undue breadth of claims 1, 11. Numerous references meet the terms of at least claims 1, 11.

Art Unit: 3683

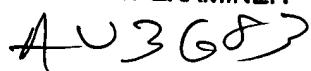
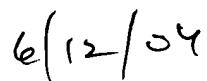
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Exmr. Butler whose telephone number is (703) 308-2575. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Lavinder, can be reached on (703) 308-3421. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



DOUGLAS C. BUTLER
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Butler/vs
June 8, 2004